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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MARRIAGE
& FAMILY THERAPY

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September 7, 2011
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
Erin J. [Signature]

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR
COMMITTEE OF THE STATE BOARD OF
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY
EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE :
SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF :
THE CERTIFICATION OF :
:

TRUDI R. JOHNSON, CADC :
Certification No. 37CA00028200 :

TO PRACTICE ALCOHOL AND DRUG :
COUNSELING IN THE :
STATE OF NEW JERSEY :
:

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER
OF VOLUNTARY SUSPENSION
OF CERTIFICATION

This matter was initially opened before the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee (the "Committee") of the New Jersey State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners upon receipt of information that respondent had been arrested for forgery.

The Committee sent respondent a letter at her address of record summoning her to testify before the Committee on October 22, 2010. Respondent submitted an undated document unresponsive to the request for her appearance. On October 22,

2010 respondent failed to appear before the Committee and failed to submit any evidence showing good cause for her failure to appear. On February 10, 2011 a Final Order of Discipline was filed suspending respondent's certification to practice alcohol and drug counseling until she appeared before the Committee and cooperated with its investigation, and she was assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).

On or about May 2, 2011 respondent contacted the Committee office and requested the opportunity to appear before the Committee. On May 20, 2011 respondent appeared pro se before the Committee and explained that she was unable to appear on October 22, 2010 because of a medical condition. She testified that she continues to suffer from the medical condition and is not able to practice alcohol and drug counseling at this time. She further testified that she was arrested on June 21, 2010 and charged with forgery because she had shown a police officer her sister's driver's license when she was stopped for a traffic violation. On April 28, 2011 she was found guilty of a traffic violation and was assessed a fine of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) plus court costs and the remaining charges were dismissed.

Respondent has agreed to the voluntary suspension of her certification to practice alcohol and drug counseling in accordance with the terms of this Consent Order. Based upon respondent's documentation of her medical condition, and explanation for failing to appear before the Committee on October 22, 2010 and cooperation with the Committee, the Committee is rescinding the civil penalty assessed in the Final Order of Discipline, filed on February 11, 2011.

The Committee finds the terms of this Consent Order to be adequately protective

of the public interest and respondent, desiring to resolve this matter without further proceedings; and good cause appearing,

IT IS, THEREFORE, on this 7th day of September, 2011,

ORDERED THAT:

1. Respondent's certification to practice alcohol and drug counseling shall continue to be suspended and she shall cease and desist from such practice until further order of the Committee. Respondent shall deliver her 2010-2012 biennial renewal certification (expiration date August 31, 2012), including her original wall certificate, certification and wallet size credential forthwith to Ms. Elaine DeMars, Executive Director of the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee, P.O. Box 45040, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07101 within five (5) days of the filing of this Consent Order.
2. Respondent shall not engage in any volunteer or uncompensated alcohol or drug counseling or internship or any other mental health counseling or life coaching unless and until she is duly authorized by the Committee or another appropriate licensing Board to do so.
3. Respondent shall not seek reinstatement of certification for a minimum of one (1) year from the filing of the within Consent Order.
4. In the event respondent seeks reinstatement, she shall provide the following documentation to the Committee demonstrating that she is sufficiently fit and competent to re-enter the practice of alcohol and drug counseling:
 - a. A written up-to-date report signed and dated by a mental health professional, pre-approved by the Committee, who was respondent's primary counselor

during treatment. The report shall include, at a minimum, evidence documenting respondent's compliance with treatment for a minimum of one year and a clinical opinion that the respondent is fit and competent, and sufficiently able to re-enter the practice of alcohol and drug counseling. The report should also include a recommended plan of treatment for the future.

b. A letter from each of respondent's treating physicians listing all medications that are currently prescribed for the respondent, including the length of time each physician has been prescribing each medication, quantity and frequency prescribed, and reason for the prescription(s).

c. A statement signed and dated by the respondent representing whether or not there have been any "criminal actions" taken against her in New Jersey or any other jurisdiction since the surrender of her certification. "Criminal actions" includes arrests, convictions for criminal offenses and/or motor vehicle offenses regardless of whether the charges/summonses were dismissed, she was found not guilty, plead guilty or entered a plea bargain. The signed statement must include the following language above her signature:

"I certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true.
I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by
me are wilfully false, I am subject to punishment."

d. A letter outlining the type of employment, occupation or other activity respondent engaged in during the time respondent's certification was suspended.

5. In the event respondent seeks reinstatement of certification and provides documentation demonstrating that she is fit and competent and sufficiently able to re-enter the practice of alcohol and drug counseling, respondent shall appear before the

Committee, if so requested by the Committee. During the appearance before the Committee, the burden shall be on respondent to demonstrate that she is fit, competent and able to practice alcohol and drug counseling, and has complied with the terms of this Consent Order.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR
COMMITTEE OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE
BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
THERAPY EXAMINERS

By Edward Reading LCADC
Edward Reading
Committee Chair, LCADC

I have read and I understand the terms of this Order and agree to be bound by it. I consent to the entry of this Consent Order.

Trudi R. Johnson CADC
Trudi R. Johnson, CADC

I have read the within Consent Order and agree as Ms. Johnson's psychotherapist to provide the Committee with a report regarding her compliance with her treatment plan, and fitness to practice.

(Print name)

Psychotherapist

Telephone #

(including area code and extension)

(Title and License #)

Dated: _____, 2011